

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO



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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Council Approves Mission Hills-Hillcrest Branch Library Site Acquisition

SAN DIEGO — The residents of Mission Hills and Hillcrest received some good news on Tuesday, September 30th, when the City Council unanimously approved the expenditure of \$2.2 million for the site acquisition of what will be the new Mission Hills/Hillcrest Branch Library. The new library will be built on land currently occupied by the IBEW Union building at 215 Washington Street.

"I am thrilled that the City has reached an agreement to purchase this site for the new branch library that will serve the communities of Mission Hills and Hillcrest. This is the site that the community chose as the best location for the new branch library," said Third District Councilmember Toni Atkins, in whose district the library will be located. "With this step, the residents of Mission Hills and Hillcrest—who have worked so hard and waited so long—can finally be assured that we're serious about moving forward with this project."

The new branch library will replace the Mission Hills Branch Library currently located at 925 West Washington Street. Built in 1961, the 3,850 sq. ft. building is one of the smallest branch libraries in the city. At 15,000 square feet, the new branch library will be almost four times the size of the current facility, and will offer a computer lab, community meeting space, special areas designed for children and teens, and expanded general seating and collection space.

"The location of the library adjacent to Florence Elementary School and the inclusion of computer labs and space for children make this project a perfect fit for area students," said Atkins. "Once opened, this new library will quickly become a central gathering place for the residents of the surrounding communities."

Demolition of the IBEW building and the start of construction on the new building are scheduled for the fall of 2005. The new branch library is scheduled to open in October of 2007.

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